

B ~~opening~~

4. (Amended) The slicer of claim 3 wherein said anchor component is a wall.
5. (Amended) The slicer of claim 3 wherein said spring is located between said member and said anchor component.
6. (Amended) The slicer of claim 3 wherein said spacer is located between said member and said anchor component.
7. (Amended) The slicer of claim 3 wherein said first direction is towards said anchor component.
- AI 8. (Amended) The slicer of claim 3 wherein said spring, said spacer, and said member are located on a first side of said anchor component, and wherein the device further comprises a lock nut located on a second side of said anchor component to secure said threaded rod in place.
9. (Amended) The slicer of claim 21 wherein said rod extends through said spring.
- Sub B4 10. ~~(Amended) The slicer of claim 21 wherein said rod extends through said spacer.~~
11. (Amended) The slicer of claim 21 wherein said spacer receives said spring therein.
12. (Amended) The slicer of claim 21 wherein said pulley is pivotally mounted such that advancement of said member in said first direction causes said spring to be compressed, which in turn causes said pulley to be pivoted and the tension in said belt to thereby be increased.
13. (Amended) The slicer of claim 21 further comprising an arm having a first end and

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Amendment

a second end, said first end being coupled to said rod and said second end being coupled to said pulley.

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14. (Amended) The slicer of claim 21 wherein when said rod includes a lever mechanism to vary the force applied upon said pulley as said member is moved along said rod.

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16. (Amended) The slicer of claim 22 further comprising a member coupled to said rod that engages said arm and causes said arm to move in said first direction.

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~~17. The slicer of claim 16 wherein said rod is a threaded rod and said member is a nut threaded onto said rod.~~

18. The slicer of claim 22 wherein said arm includes a collar that fits around said rod.

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Add the following new claims 21 and 22:

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~~21. A slicer comprising:~~  
~~a slicer body;~~  
~~a rotatable blade coupled to said slicer body;~~  
~~a reciprocal tray for bringing a food product into and out of contact with said blade;~~  
~~a motor for driving said blade, said motor being pivotable and having an output pulley operatively connected to said blade; and~~  
~~a belt tensioning device for said motor such that a belt passed around said output pulley can be tightened to a predetermined tension, the belt tensioning device including a rod coupled to said pulley, a member coupled to and movable along said rod, a spring that exerts a reactive force against said member when said member is moved in a first direction along said rod, and a spacer which engages said member to limit the advancement of said member in said first direction.~~

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